



Contribution to the knowledge of the Family Caecidae: 11. *Caecum clarae*, a new name for *Caecum crispum* Cerulli-Irelli, 1912 non Verrill & Bush, 1900 (Caenogastropoda: Rissoidae J.E. Gray, 1847)

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KEY WORDS: *Caecum crispum*, new name, homonym, Pliocene, Italy, marine.

ABSTRACT: A new name, *Caecum clarae* is herein proposed for *Caecum crispum* Cerulli-Irelli, 1912, a fossil species from the Italian Pliocene. The name was already used for *Caecum crispum* Verrill & Bush, 1900, a Recent species from the Panamic Area.

RIASSUNTO: L'Autore propone un nuovo nome *Caecum clarae*, in luogo di *Caecum crispum* Cerulli-Irelli, 1912, specie fossile rinvenuta in un deposito pliocenico del Lazio; tale taxon risulta essere infatti omonimo primario di *Caecum crispum* Verrill & Bush, 1900, descritto per l'area Panamense. La specie fossile, poco conosciuta, è accompagnata da una descrizione più esauriente e da un'iconografia più dettagliata rispetto a quella dell'Autore italiano.

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Introduction

In 1912, Serafino Cerulli-Irelli described *C. crispum*, a fossil species found in the Pliocene sediments from the area of Farnesina (Monte Mario), then in the outskirts of Rome (Italy); yet the name *C. crispum* had already been used by VERRILL & BUSH (1900) for a Recent species of the Panamic area which is markedly different. Since the fossil species is not well-known, some pictures of it along with a more detailed description than the original one (although already exhausting) provided by Cerulli-Irelli, are herein included.

Original description

C. crispum Cerulli-Irelli, 1912

[Fauna Malacologica Mariana; Palaeontografia Italica, 18: 355, t. XXV, figs. 30-31]

(Fig. 4 is a copy of the original photo of *C. crispum* taken from Cerulli-Irelli's original paper)

"*Conchiglia piccola, cilindrica, arcuata, solida a superficie leggermente ondulata per rughe anulari di accrescimento, ed elegantemente increspata da numerosi, irregolari rilievi longitudinali, ondulati, assai vicini fra loro. Septum mammellonato, fortemente sporgente, ad apice assai ottuso, indistinto, situato a sinistra. Apertura quasi affatto contratta, non marginata, leggermente declive.*

Altezza mm. 2,5

Larghezza mm. 0,6"

Additional description

Small (dimensions of the photographed specimen from loc. Pozzavilla parting): length: 2.5 mm; width: diam. min. 0.5 mm; diam. max. 0.6 mm), slightly subcylindrical, little curved shell. Septum hemispheric, more protruding, weakly right oriented;

its ventral margin is more or less convex while the dorsal one is straight on. Microsculpture on the tube consisting of a longitudinal, worm-like, non homogenous, irregularly undulated streaking which gives the tube a peculiar "wrinkled" effect. Sometimes the discontinuous growth lines are more marked and look like very small rings. Aperture perfectly circular, ringed round with a more or less pronounced varix.

Type material

In the Cerulli-Irelli collection, presently at the Dept. of Earth Sciences ("La Sapienza" Rome University) not seen.

Material examined

- 1 shell, Colle Val d'Elsa (Siena, Toscana, Italy) loc. S. Andrea (clays on sandy calcarenite), Lower Pliocene, S. Palazzi coll.

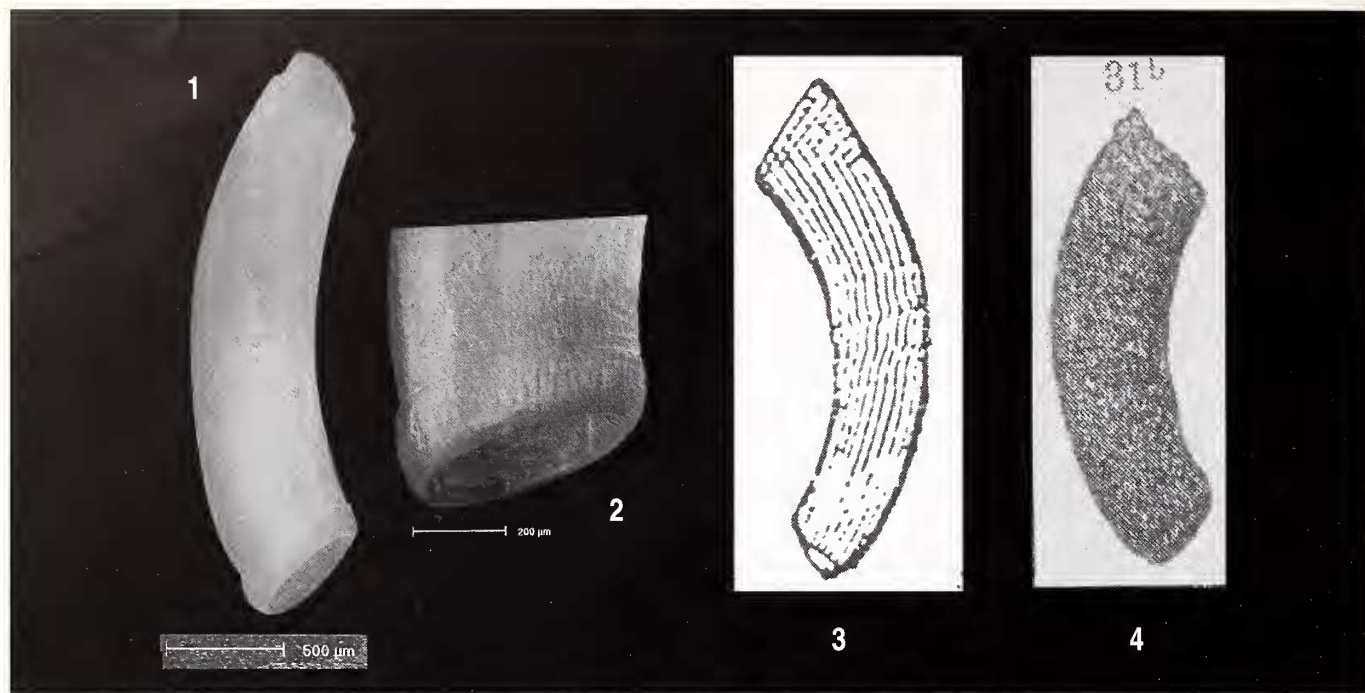
- 1 shell, Orciano (Pisa, Toscana, Italy) loc. Pozzavilla parting (clays on sandy calcarenite), Lower Pliocene, S. Palazzi coll.

- 1 shell, Montelibretti loc. Colle Sabbaco (Rome, Italy), level 1, 107 m s.l.m., grey sands, leg. M. Mancini 12/98, M. Pizzini coll. (Dim. length: 2.32 mm; width: diam. min. 0.5 mm, diam. max. 0.57 mm)

- 1 shell, in shallow gully, grey clay sands Poggibonsi loc. Melograni (Siena, Toscana, Italy), Middle Pliocene, leg. C. Chirli, C. Chirli coll.

Geographic distribution

C. crispum is a very rare species and a few specimens of it have been found in the Pliocene drift in Tuscany - Italy (CHIRLI, 1995); in the Lazio Region, it has also been found in the debris still under study (MANCINI, 1998) taken from the Pliocene drifts in Colle Sabbaco, far from the usual location where the specimens can be found (see Figs 1-3).



1) *Caecum clavae*, new name for *C. crispum* Cerulli-Irelli, 1912 - from Orciano (Pisa, Toscana, Italy), loc. Pozzavilla parting (clays on sandy calcarenite), Lower Pliocene, S. Palazzi coll. - 2) the same specimen: particular of apertural ring. - 3) Original figure of *Caecum crispum*, Verrill & Bush, 1900. - 4) Original picture of *Caecum crispum*, Cerulli Irelli, 1912.

Conclusions

I concur with the view of FEKIH (1975) and CHIRLI (1985), that the species described by Cerulli-Irelli should be considered valid, being it very different from the other Pliocene to Recent species known from the area, because of its peculiar longitudinal microsculpture, irregularly undulated. Anyway, Cerulli-Irelli's name, *crispum*, can not be used on the basis of art. 57 (a) (b), and 60 (a) (b) (c) of ICZN (1985) because it is a primary homonym of *C. crispum* Verrill & Bush, 1900.

I therefore propose the name *Caecum clavae*, dedicated to my daughter Chiara, for *C. crispum* Cerulli-Irelli.

This species is morphologically quite similar to *C. auriculatum* de Folin, 1868, from which it differs for the typical longitudinal microsculpture and a much more rounded septum lacking the ear-like mucro, always present in *auriculatum* (Pizzini *et alii*, 1995).

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